

The Corinth Chanticleer.

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EDITOR, AND PROPRIETOR.



"THE DEFORMED TRANSFORMED."

There is nothing that tells with such striking examples the difference between the northern and southern armies,—their habits—and mode of living, than the difference in their military posts, and the vast change which they undergo after falling into federal hands. The rebel slovenliness and disregard of order and cleanliness, may grow out of the fact that they never expect to hold a place any great length of time. But be this as it may, there is no one who has been in the successful army of the west who has not observed that the first thing done after taking possession of a rebel town or fortification is to detail a policing squad to cleanse the place and render it fit for the occupancy of "the men of the North." As an example of this we wish to cite our own beautiful city of Corinth. Those who entered Corinth with the grand Army of the Tennessee, on the 1st of June 1862, will remember the sad and dilapidated appearance of the place—its streets covered with old barrels, and the debris of the commissary department,—piles of spoiled provisions, sending up an odor which would disgrace a respectable sewer up north, and camp grounds which gave no evidence of ever having been polished, which promises being was not at all improved by the smoldering ruins of the depot buildings and the ghastly contents of which the retreating rebels could not take away with them.

This is the condition which Corinth presented when Maj. Gen. Halleck took possession of the place, but as it was now to be held and inhabited by wide-awake, enterprising soldiers of the north, it could not long remain in the loathsome condition in which they found it. A few days of rest were allowed the army after the fatiguing advance, and the work of renovation began. Squads of men could be seen all over the town removing the refuse matter which obstructed the streets, and teams were moving back and forth loaded with salt meat and spoiled provisions which even the southern chivalry could not eat, and had been thrown into the streets.—This system of policing was maintained until the city was entirely cleansed of its impurities, and was then extended to the camp grounds which surround the town.

Over a year has passed away since the investment of Corinth by the Federal forces, and we venture to say that there are few who then marched through its streets who would recognize the place now; and many an inhabitant who fled with the rebel army would to day find it difficult to point out their old homes. There are few places in the country that have undergone so complete and thorough a change. Now a commodious depot and freight buildings have been erected. The business blocks are all occupied by merchants, and there is no greater demand for stores on Broadway New York, than today in the city of Corinth, and many fine buildings have been erected by merchants who could not get room otherwise to store their goods. The streets have been curbed and sidewalks laid, and nature seems to have co-operated with the enterprise of man, for never was Corinth in such luxuriant bloom as this spring.

Gardens are yielding their earliest fruits. The beautiful garden surrounding the Headquarters of the General Commanding, is perfuming the air with its rare exotics, and the roses seem to have caught their bloom from the cheeks of the fair ones that dally tressis and entwine

their heavily laden boughs, and if they do blush it is for those who planted them in other days, who now are in arms to destroy this our beloved country.

We do not wish our enthusiasm to be misconstrued, we have not been led to forget the sweet land of our childhood, nor the loved ones that make our homes so dear; but we are frank to confess that over a year's residence in Corinth has somewhat attached us to the place, though not so much so as to make us refuse a short leave of absence.

First Alabama Infantry.

CAMP 1ST ALA. LOYAL INFT.

NEAR CORINTH MISS., JUNE 8TH, 1863.

MR. EDITOR:—You ask for information about the colored regiment, how we get along, and what we think of it. Well, I must say that with all my researches and posting before and during the war, that I was not prepared to believe the half. These men, sir, are destined to become the best soldiers in the world. Mark the prediction. They will end this war, and in less than ten years will form the bulk of our National Guard—the basis of our large standing army we will, for years, be compelled to keep in our sickly south—sea-coast and river forts. Mark the prediction again.

Way do we think of it?

Because, in the first place, they are physically better adapted to the arduous duties of a soldier's life and hardships. The examining surgeons pronounced some of them to be the finest specimens of physical perfection they ever saw. (They were stripped in "regular" style.)

In the 2d place they know nothing but perfect obedience, the first great requisite in a soldier. They pay better attention than our white soldiers, and rarely ever make a mistake when a movement is properly explained beforehand.

3d. They are natural imitators and learn the manual of arms with surprising facility and quickness. There are boys here fifteen and sixteen years of age who can take up a musket and execute the different maneuvers of the Ellsworth Zouaves almost with the rapidity of lightning. A few of them were "drilled up" in the regiments where they had been serving as waiters.

4th. They are the most thoroughly and intensely loyal class of people in the whole country, north or south. There is not a copperhead to be found among them, and very little inducement for them to desert to the rebels.

They are more intelligent, independent and manly than the poor whites of the country from the fact, probably, that they enjoyed the "fat of the land" with their masters, whilst the poor white trash were crowded into the mountains to starve. Most of them are prepared for their freedom and fully understand its responsibilities.

That they will fight has already been demonstrated, and we have no doubt with proper officers, they would commit less depredations when on a march than our own men. When they are drilled we would be happy to meet an equal number of their copperhead slanderers, whose traitorous and cowardly carcasses they are saving from the draft.

5th. They make the best fatigue men in the world. Last week our seven hundred men, besides the hundred or more men called for almost daily to unload cars in town, and as many more for camp, corral and farm guards, performed more hard labor on the barracks than any two white regiments at the Post, we dare say. And yet we are expected to be half drilled by this time. Does Gen. Dodge, who witnessed our Battalion movements Saturday evening, know that we had not so much as a squad drill all last week? All our energies are laid out upon the barracks at present.

And now in conclusion we would just say that we want every one to dispel all foolish prejudices about colored regiments and think reasonably. Slavery is dead. It has committed suicide. We are now making the best possible disposition of these people. When this work is accomplished, the war will be done, and not before. The hand of Almighty God is working with us. We want to take these men, as soon as possible, where they can save the bosoms of our intelligent northern boys and let them go to their homes and friends. This is right and

proper. We intend to rescue these people from adultery, ignorance and barbarism, and elevate them to the extent of the capacities which God has given them. We wish to redeem our land from the merited stigma of inconsistency—of sending Missionaries and teachers to foreign lands, whilst it protects and nourishes ignorance and barbarism in its own midst. We propose to make the South a home, not a prison or house of torture, and then no negroes will wish to go north to tempt the copperheads to amalgamation, (for by the way their fears about amalgamation are not groundless, as the copperheads, in and out of the army, are the worst amalgamaters in the world.) Ah, sir, this is a great missionary work. These people, doomed by two centuries of cruel State Legislation to adultery and ignorance, are now to make a great stride towards civilization. No man should ask for, or be permitted to receive a position in these regiments who is not, and *has not had*, his heart and soul in the work. Away with your new converts—these cowardly sneaks who have made capital out of the woes and tears of the race, but now, since the current has been wrested and the thing become popular, creep in for the commission sake. Away with such men. They are the meanest and most contemptible creature on God's footstool. None but a moral, high-minded, intelligent and temperate man, has any business with these regiments, and the Colonels who are recommending officers to the new regiments, should look well to these things. The position is attended with fearful responsibilities. It is emphatically a great missionary work, and he who enters into it, takes not only his life, but his very soul into his hand.

H. S.

A TEXT FOR THE COPPERHEADS.

"And whosoever will not do the laws of the God, and the laws of the Kings, [Government] let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment; or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment." Ezra 7: 26.

We commend the above passage of scripture to the editors and printers, and all those of our brethren who are howling about the U. S. Government. Many of these creatures are members of churches, and professed believers in the scriptures. They have been reading Heaven and earth with their cries about high taxes, a depreciated currency, and an abridgment of personal liberty. In some sections of the north they have broken out in open revolt. They say they want peace. Yes, they want peace with the rebels, but war at home. They want to deluge the firesides of their loyal neighbors with blood. What means that secret system of arming, and those treasonable convocations in the north? Afraid of losing their liberties! Their treasonable course of conduct has brought the military hand up on them.—Had Ohio, Indiana and Illinois remained loyal and quiet, there would have been no need of military correction within their borders, no more than there is in New England. The North a Military Despotism! From the mighty tide of foreign emigration still pouring in upon us, we seem still to be considered the freest Government on earth; "the refuge of the oppressed of every clime."

Mr. Editor, for one, we are for executing, to the very letter, the law above quoted. These northern copperheads are far more culpable than the great mass of southern rebels, because they are better informed and not compelled to take sides. Yes, let the law be executed; whether unto "banishment," imprisonment, confiscation of goods, or even "death" itself, none but the guilty need have fears.

H. S.

We find the following in a Memphis correspondence. It goes to show how much the Memphis people have gained by rebellion:

"I think I cannot be mistaken in estimating the value of confiscated property in Memphis at millions of dollars. Large hotels and expensive blocks of stores—The Gayoso House, the Overton House, and Adams, Jefferson, and Gayoso blocks—are confiscated property, and are now owned by the Federal authorities,